

## ST. LOUIS DRY GOODS TRADE.

The constant expansion of the demand for goods of all classes, from every section of the country, has worked a revolution in the dry goods trade, both as regards the articles handled, and the facilities for the local and outside demand imperatively required, and to a large degree, now being provided.

Thus, in place of a few staple articles comprising the great bulk of a wholesale dealer, the model establishment now carries in addition to immense stocks of these, full lines of an infinite variety of specialties, drawn from the Eastern manufacturers, and largely from the foreign factories direct. The importance of this item has been dwelt upon at length, in former articles, and the value to dealer and purchaser is too apparent to need further comment.

Amongst the advantages inuring to the trade and resultant from its steady growth, has followed the necessity for larger and more suitable buildings in which to store and exhibit the goods. Amongst the most salient of the arguments for a concentration of a trade in more fitting quarters, may be adduced the facts, that a number of the most prominent of our merchants have erected buildings of imposing size and unexampled convenience on Fifth street, and the experience of such houses as Messrs. Dodd, Brown & Co., show a great increase in the satisfactory conduct of business since the removal. Other merchants would follow the wise example if they could obtain the buildings, and indications are good for the erection of such within the next six months. In the cases of those who have removed from the close dark confines of Main street, the increase in trade has proven the fact that purchasers will give the preference to those establishments which furnish the best air and the best light to inspect the best goods of all grades, and it is self-evident that valuable results in economy of time, and the provision of close communication, must follow the concentration of the business of this important trade, to allow the utmost freedom of comparison of stocks, while obviating the necessity of learning the town, as is now necessitated. The dry goods trade is in extremely fine shape now, with tremendous supplies of all the goods that can be desired, and a little attention to the above points may prove of value to many dealers, as well as to purchasers who remember the claims of St. Louis as a liberal market in which their desires are most judiciously and adequately provided for.

The dry goods trade, as compared with last season, exhibits a decided improvement, both in the nature and the magnitude of the demand. With a greater confidence in the state of the money market, occasioned by bountiful crops, in good condition, the feeling is more healthy, and purchasers are laying in stocks without the feeling of apprehension prevalent last fall. The increase over last year, if present signs do not fail, will exceed 30 per cent. Our merchants are buying larger and better stocks, on more reasonable terms, and although prices are a shade firmer, they are more favorable to buyers. Cottons and woollens are stronger, and will probably so continue.

Many new classes of goods are being introduced, corresponding to the new developments East, and the new sources of demand. Chicago, for many years, has been favored with the trade of the North-west. It is now coming to us. Iowa especially, with the completion of railway facilities to the interior, is sending in orders thick and fast, and trade in that State is extending most rapidly, and will be augmented in direct ratio with the enterprise and aid extended by our people, to make the imperfect chain of communication complete, by the addition of a few links which are now missing.

A heavy volume of trade is flowing in upon us now also from Arkansas and Texas, the direct result of the facile communication via the M., K. & T., and the Cairo and Fulton Railroads. The merchants of those sections express themselves heartily pleased with the prices and quantities of goods afforded by the St. Louis market, in comparison with their former sources of non-competitive supply. Other sections are represented in the demand, and the stocks are provided with a lavishness and variety not exceeded by any market in the Union.

As an evidence of this we desire to speak of the immense and costly supplies now in stock in our largest institutions, notably that now being disposed of very rapidly by Messrs. Dodd, Brown & Co. This firm needs no introduction—its energetic enterprise and liberal dealings having placed it amongst the most extensively known and popular of any house in any line of trade in the West. This firm now is selling a stock of flannels and blankets, consisting of every variety of these indispensable goods. It is claimed to be the very best and the largest stock of such articles ever brought to this market, and constitutes a specialty involving an outlay of half a million of dollars in the one line of staple goods. The entire basement, at this season of the year, is devoted to the handling of flannels and blankets, besides additional room provided for this special exigency. They are selling lower than last season—so much lower in fact, that buyers are taking them freely, and the whole line will be closed out in the next three months, from present indications.

The first floor of the mammoth building is occupied with domestics and dress goods, the stock of which is most complete in variety and the fine quality of goods. This department has been provided for with exceedingly judicious forethought, and the lines are fuller than ever were known in the history of the trade, in anticipations of a demand, that have not been reestimated, from many new and all the old sections, now seeking this city for full supplies.

A more elegant stock and a finer display cannot be seen anywhere, not even excepting New York city, more especially in costume goods, empress cloths, serges, diagonals, black silks of the richest quality, and the cheapest goods of their descriptions ever offered. Vigor of Bedinghotes, fine lines of Japanese poplins, etc., etc.

The second floor is stocked with jeans, casimires, cottonades, black cloths, doaks, skirts, shawls, etc., in a comprehensive variety. The third is the notion department, and is as thorough as any in the country. The fourth is devoted to hosiery, gloves, gents' and ladies' furnishing goods, umbrellas, tablecloths, window-hollands, etc., and the fifth is the packing department.

A faint idea of the force of our claim to furnishing a market equal to any in the Union, is furnished by the statement that this is one of the largest in the United States, the representative house of St. Louis, and that its business for 1873 will be between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000.

The building occupied is six stories including the fine basement, and is one hundred and two feet wide by one hundred and thirty feet deep, and keeps nearly one hundred employees constantly busy to supply the demand upon its inexhaustible resources.

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CURTIS & BROWN, Proprietors, No. 215 Fulton street, New York.

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Is the best remedy in the world for the following complaints, viz: Cramps in the Limbs and Stomach, Pain in the Stomach, Bowels or Side, Rheumatism in all its forms, Bilious Colic, Neuralgia, Cholera, Dysentery, Colds, Fever, Burns, Scalds, Sprains, Spinal Complaints, Sprains and Bruises, Chills and Fever, For Internal and External use.

It operation is not only to relieve the patient, but entirely remove the cause of the complaint. It penetrates and pervades the whole system, restoring healthy action to all its parts, and quickening the blood.

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